***NUCLEAR WEAPONS NOWADAYS: WHAT YOU CAN KNOW AND DO***

Dates: Mondays (3 sessions): February 24, March 2, 9, and 16

Time: 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Place: OUUC, 2315 Division St., Olympia 98502

Leaders: Joanne Dufour, Glen Anderson, Mark Fleming, and James Manista

The Cold War ended three decades ago, but nuclear weapons have persisted ever since. Many recent and current actions by the U.S. government have sharply increased the danger of nuclear war in the "new cold war", so now the "Doomsday Clock" is the closest to midnight it has been since 1953. However, most Americans do not want to think about nuclear weapons. Those who do care can benefit by updated information; those who haven't yet taken on the cause might find reasons to care. This course will provide necessary information for all in a supportive environment.

While some information may be frightening, other information shows possibilities for solving the problems. Instead of feeling overwhelmed by the difficult, scary realities, we can learn without feeling powerless. We can empower ourselves to help support the positive efforts that are happening at the global, national and local levels.

Four well informed presenters from the Olympia Coalition to Abolish Nuclear Weapons will address different parts of the topic and facilitate discussion. There will be handouts and discussion to follow. Themes include present issues such as current government policies (the US Nuclear Posture Review), persistent myths, the status of MAD (mutually assured destruction) thinking, non-violent resistance, legislation to support or oppose, as well as international disarmament initiatives.

This course is designed for people who are concerned about nuclear weapons and want to update their knowledge, people who are relatively new to the topic, and those who are working to stop the growing danger of nuclear war. It offers a safe environment for learning and exploring what all of us can do. We hope you will join us.

Glen Anderson is chair of the Olympia Coalition to Abolition Nuclear Weapons ( founded in 2017) and a lifelong volunteer activist/speaker/writer/organizer/trainer on multi-faceted issues including nuclear weapons, non-violence, and peace advocacy. See www.parallaxperspectives.org; or call (360) 491-9093.

Joanne Dufour, retired Social Studies Educator, former NGO (Non-Government Organization) representative from her National SS Organization to the United Nations, recent Originator of UUA blog on Disarming Our Planet through the UU UN Office @ http://www.uua.org/international/blog/disarmament

Mark Fleming, a Vietnam Veteran and Secretary of the Rachel Corrie Chapter #109 of the Veterans for Peace in Olympia currently assisting vets having difficulties. He has actively opposed the proliferation and use of nuclear weapons for over three decades.

James Manista, peace activist/organizer in both Cleveland and Olympia with the Veterans for Peace and annual Peace Show celebrations in Ohio. He was influenced by the writings of Thomas Merton and recently protested in Bangor-Kitsap Naval Base with a non-violent anti-nuke banner. He was cited by the marines for trespass on federal military property and dismissed by a judge who lowered the fine, agreed upon its payment and respectfully commended his action.

All the above are members of the Olympia Coalition to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (OCANW), one of more than 40 organizational members of the statewide coalition Washington Against Nuclear Weapons, http://www.wanwcoaliton.org. Kindly contact OCANW at glenanderson@integra.net or (360) 491-9093.

**Short version**

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